

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 708

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Hedy Weinberg
for her meritorious service to the citizens of
Tennessee through ACLU-TN.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens, who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Hedy Weinberg is one such estimable person and beloved leader who has served with distinction for twenty-five years as the executive director of the Tennessee chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union; and

WHEREAS, for the past quarter century, Ms. Weinberg has stood resolute at the helm of the ACLU-TN, guiding the enterprise with acumen and alacrity and cultivating its growth into the successful and impactful organization it is today; and

WHEREAS, the ACLU-TN, a private, non-partisan, non-profit membership organization is headquartered in Nashville and boasts a membership of 4,200 members, including doctors and lawyers, farmers and factory workers, retirees and students, rich and poor, gay and straight, Democrats, Republicans, and Libertarians, and religious and non-religious; and

WHEREAS, a native of Chicago, Hedy Weinberg came from a family where Clarence Darrow, renowned champion of the “underdog,” was king and was raised to believe she had a vital role to play in pursuing justice and creating a more open and fair society; and

WHEREAS, undaunted by the voices in strong opposition, Ms. Weinberg has guided the ACLU-TN for twenty-five years with courage and perseverance to the forefront of difficult issues in order to defend the “outcasts” of society and protect and promote the constitutional guarantees of the Bill of Rights through advocacy, litigation, legislative lobbying, and public education; and

WHEREAS, under Ms. Weinberg's brilliant direction, ACLU-TN has spearheaded efforts to ensure that the constitutional rights of all Tennesseans are protected by campaigning against racial profiling, defeating a bill that would have prohibited translation of driver license exams, establishing an Election Day hotline to help voters who encounter problems at the polls, and working to get Tennessee schools to end censorship of gay educational sites; and

WHEREAS, by creating a culture of respect, trust, flexibility, and concern, Ms. Weinberg has skillfully managed and harnessed the talents of her staff of three, a board of directors, dedicated volunteers, cooperating attorneys, and a statewide legal committee, while remaining calm and professional and encouraging healthy debate, new ideas, and open discussions; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Ms. Weinberg was nominated for the 2009 Tennessean of the Year Award for her tireless endeavors to ensure that individuals possessing minority viewpoints or religious beliefs, as well as the disenfranchised and voiceless, receive the protections guaranteed them by our founding fathers; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Ms. Weinberg has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues and her community; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Weinberg epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Hedy Weinberg for her dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Hedy Weinberg for her meritorious service to the state of Tennessee, honor her singular contributions to the Tennessee chapter of the ACLU, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.